



GARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Richard Marotta, Ph. D., Headmaster

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Thoughts for the week

By Richard Marotta, Ph.D., Headmaster



In the October Newsletter, I wrote about the importance of communication in the life of an independent school. Nothing is more important to the success of the educational institution than active and dynamic communication. There are moments when communication is specific to a child's progress, and other moments that affect the growth and development of a school.

All of the literature about independent school mentions the importance of the bond between families and school in the success of the student. Not only are parents a truly important partner in educating children, they often act as the conduit for information and to implement plans that insure the student's success. At Garden, communication is highly valued and it occurs in a variety of ways: parent conferences, planned and impromptu meetings, telephone calls, emails, newsletter and teacher pages on *Think Wave*.

Another vitally important aspect of school communication occurs between the school itself and the parent body. Schools need to inform parents on a regular basis about trends in education, about plans for change within the school, about soliciting parent input on important school issues.

To that end, Garden School is embarking on a parent survey to gather information and viewpoints that will help shape our school's future growth. The information gathered from this survey will allow us to conduct strategic planning with some direct knowledge of our parent experience. Please participate and share your viewpoints with us. I have reprinted the email below that was sent to all parents about the survey, which explains some of the details involved.

In our continuing effort to improve you and your child's experience at Garden School, I am pleased to announce that next week you will be receiving a short online survey to complete. The survey will arrive via email with a link to the survey which should be completed in one sitting and should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete, depending on your responses. You will not be asked for your name or grade level and all responses will be anonymous and entirely confidential.

Your participation and feedback from all grade levels is important and will help guide the school's approach to improving your family and child's experience. I am asking ALL parents to participate in this survey and to be complete and straightforward in your responses. This is your chance to let the school know what we are doing well, and what you and your student enjoys, and, of course, what we can improve upon and what you would like to see changed, added or removed. Comment boxes will be available for constructive suggestions where applicable.

Thank you for your participation, trust and cooperation and for being a part of improving our school.

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